



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Capital Murder, Child Abuse for Long Beach Attack

A 29-year-old man pleaded not guilty today to fatally shooting his ex-girlfriend during a domestic violence incident in December, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Eric Jerome Williams Jr. (dob 3/5/86) of Long Beach has been charged with six counts in case NA103253: two counts of injuring a child's parent and one count each of murder, child abuse, possession of a firearm by a felon, and resisting or delaying a peace officer.

The felony complaint includes a special circumstance allegation that Williams killed victim Jerica Owens because she was a witness to a crime.

Also, the charging document contains a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm which caused great bodily injury and death.

Furthermore, the felony complaint alleges Williams was previously convicted of battery in 2008 and unlawful driving or taking of a vehicle in 2010.

Deputy District Attorney Troy Davis, who is prosecuting the case, said Williams and Owens were in a relationship for several years and lived together before they broke up. The two also shared a son, the prosecutor added.

On Oct. 10, 2015, Williams met with Owens to exchange their son when the defendant reportedly became angry with the victim and strangled her. Owens lost consciousness and when she awoke, the defendant allegedly strangled her again, according to the prosecutor.

On Dec. 22, 2015, Williams met with Owens and their son in the 1900 block of Chestnut Avenue in Long Beach when the two reportedly got into argument, the prosecutor said.

At some point, Williams allegedly pulled out a gun and shot the victim several times in the head in front of their son, the prosecutor said. The defendant then fled the area with their child, the prosecutor added.

Following the shooting, law enforcement located Williams at a friend's home, but the defendant reportedly refused to come out.

The defendant was subsequently arrested and then charged on Dec. 24.

Williams is scheduled to return to court on March 16 for a preliminary hearing setting in Dept. S18 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch.

If convicted as charged, Williams faces the death penalty or life in state prison without the possibility of parole. The decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The case is being investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.